

Crapo	Lee	Rosen
Duckworth	Lujan	Rounds
Durbin	Lummis	Sanders
Feinstein	Manchin	Schatz
Fischer	Markey	Schumer
Gillibrand	McConnell	Sinema
Graham	Menendez	Smith
Hassan	Merkley	Stabenow
Heinrich	Moran	Sullivan
Hickenlooper	Murkowski	Tester
Hirono	Murphy	Thune
Hyde-Smith	Murray	Tillis
Inhofe	Ossoff	Van Hollen
Johnson	Padilla	Warner
Kaine	Paul	Warnock
Kelly	Peters	Warren
Kennedy	Portman	Whitehouse
King	Reed	Wicker
Klobuchar	Risch	Wyden
Leahy	Romney	Young

NAYS—21

Barrasso	Ernst	Rubio
Blackburn	Grassley	Sasse
Braun	Hagerty	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Hooven	Shelby
Cruz	Lankford	Toomey
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—1

Shaheen

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 16.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 16, Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education.

Charles E. Schumer, Cory A. Booker, Jon Ossoff, Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert Menendez, Benjamin L. Cardin, Kirsten

E. Gillibrand, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ron Wyden, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Duckworth, Sherrod Brown.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF THOMAS J. VILSACK

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I wanted to talk a little bit about the vote I just took here with regard to our Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary Vilsack, who is now the new Secretary or on his way to becoming the new Secretary.

You know, what I have tried to do when looking at nominees is I typically kind of look at three different questions: Do they have experience for the job, the experience necessary for the job, do they have views that I believe will help the country and in particular help my State, and do they care about the people they will be impacting? So that is a bit of a three-part test.

I have tried to work with a lot of the new nominees in the Biden administration. I voted for a number of them, most of them. As a matter of fact, I introduced Secretary Austin at his confirmation hearing. I got to know him many years ago when I was a marine and he was an Army officer, a two-star general.

You know, I will say to my friends, colleagues, constituents back home who say: Hey, Senator, you know, when the Trump administration put forward their nominees, you usually had kind of a party-line vote.

A lot of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, my Democratic friends, would vote no, no, no, no.

Why don't you do that?

Well, I don't think it is good for the country; that is why I don't do that. I am against some but I have been supportive of many, and I am not sure the way in which it worked with the previous administration was best for our Nation.

So certainly Secretary Vilsack passes the first two parts of that test I was talking about. Clearly he has the experience. He was the Secretary of Ag for 8 years under President Obama and Vice President Biden. Certainly he has views particularly with regard to farm country. You saw the strong vote he had there with regard to helping the ag sector. I am sure he is a patriot, of course. He cares about our country. But it was the third question—does he care about the people he will be impacting?—that I have had some serious hesitation on.

Mr. President, I will talk a little bit about, you know, a lot of our different economies throughout the country. Our States have been hit hard by this pandemic. I would say that my State's economy has been hit really hard. When you look at what drives a lot of the Alaska economy: the energy sector, oil, gas, mining, the tourism sector, the fisheries, commercial fishery sector—I like to call Alaska the superpower of seafood. Over 60 percent of all seafood harvested in America comes from the waters of the great State of Alaska, the most sustainable, best managed fishery probably in the world but a huge driver of our economy.

Also, there is the issue of access to our lands. Sixty-six percent of Alaska is Federal land. We need access to help have a strong economy. It is an issue that the Presiding Officer probably doesn't have to worry about, being from Connecticut, but in Alaska, access to land is huge.

In the last administration, we made a lot of progress on these issues for our economy, on oil and gas, ANWR, the NPRA, access to those lands, legislation by the Congress. Our tourism sector had been doing great. Our commercial fishing sector had been doing great. We even made progress on other access issues, like the Tongass, something that for 25 years Democrats and Republicans, whether Senators from Alaska, whether Governors from Alaska, were trying to get access to those lands. It is really important, and we were able to do that.

So there was progress, and then the pandemic that has hurt everybody. It certainly hurt the energy sector. It certainly hurt, crushed the tourism sector. Last year, Alaska was going to have 1.5 million people show up in our State with regard to tourism, a new record just on the cruise ships, but none of them showed up because of the pandemic. The commercial fishing sector also has had a really rough time with this pandemic—markets, international markets, markets domestically.

So I am very concerned about my State's economy, about working families, and about the average Alaskan who is struggling right now. The new policies put forward by this administration have been shockingly negative as it relates to my State. One month in, particularly in the energy sector, every day we are waking up to a new edict saying: Men and women who produce energy in America, who produce energy in Alaska, sorry, you are not favored anymore. You are not viewed in a positive light anymore.

It is a real, real, real concern. Hundreds, if not thousands of jobs in my State during a recession are at risk.

So these are some of the issues that I raised in my discussions with Secretary Vilsack, in particular our commercial fishing sector.

In the previous administration, under the USDA, the Secretary of Agriculture helped implement a new trade